

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for creating a task library on a computer, comprising:

obtaining task data for a plurality of components installed on the computer, the plurality of components comprising a plurality of software applications,

wherein the task data comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to a plurality of tasks implemented by the plurality of components,

wherein at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components, and

wherein at least some task data corresponding to the plurality of components is configured such that the corresponding component or components may be manipulated from within the task library;

generating task links referencing the task data for the plurality of components according to a predetermined schema; and

storing the task data and the task links as the task library.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer further comprises at least one hardware ~~component~~ device.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer further comprises at least one operating system ~~components~~ component.

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5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer further comprises at least one ~~remote~~ component operating on another computer.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer are from a plurality of component providers.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the predetermined schema organizes the task links referencing the task data according to predetermined topics.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the predetermined schema organizes the task links referencing the task data according to an alphabetic ordering of the subject matter of the task data.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the task data further comprises a plurality of tasks, and wherein each task corresponds to a particular topic relating to a corresponding component of the plurality of components.

12-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:
a processor;
a memory storing a task library, the task library comprising:

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task data for a plurality of components installed on the computer system, the plurality of components comprising a plurality of software applications,

wherein the task data comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to a plurality of tasks implemented by the plurality of components installed on the computer, and

wherein at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components; and

task links referencing the task data of the plurality of components generated according to a defined schema.

26. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system further comprises at least one hardware ~~component~~ device.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim ~~[[27]]~~ 25, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system further comprises at least one operating system ~~components~~ component.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system further comprises at least one ~~remote~~ component operating on another computer.

31. (Original) The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of components installed on the computer system are from a plurality of component providers.

32. (Original) The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the predefined schema organizes the task links referencing the task data according to predefined topics.

33. (Original) The computer system of Claim 25, wherein the predefined schema organizes the task links referencing the task data according to an alphabetic ordering of the subject matter of the task data.

34-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim ~~[[35]]~~ 25, wherein the task data comprises a task configured such that aspects of a corresponding component or components installed on the computer may be manipulated from within the task library.

37-48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) A method for executing a task relating to a first component on a computer without changing ~~component~~ user context from ~~the current~~ a second component, the method comprising:

retrieving a plurality of tasks from a task library, the task library comprising a plurality of tasks ~~[[from]]~~ implemented by a plurality of components installed on the computer,

wherein the plurality of components comprises more than one software application, and

wherein at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components;

displaying the retrieved tasks to a user within the context of the second component;
detecting the user's selection of a displayed task; and
executing an action associated with the selected task and the first component without
changing the apparent user context from the ~~current~~ second component.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 49, wherein the ~~tasks in the task library comprise tasks from~~ plurality of components further comprises at least one hardware component.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 49, wherein the ~~tasks in the task library comprise tasks from~~ plurality of components further comprises at least one operating system ~~components~~ component.

54. (Original) The method of Claim 49, wherein the tasks in the task library are organized according to a predefined schema.

55. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 49, wherein retrieving a plurality of tasks from the task library further comprises retrieving the plurality of tasks from the task library according to the ~~current~~ second component's context.

56. (Original) The method of Claim 49, wherein the retrieved tasks are displayed to a user according to a determined relevancy of the tasks.

57. (Original) The method of Claim 56, wherein the retrieved tasks are displayed to a user according to a determined relevancy of the tasks, such that more relevant tasks are displayed more prominently to the user.

58. (Original) The method of Claim 56, wherein the determined relevancy of the tasks is determined according to the frequency with which the user has previously selected each task.

59. (Original) The method of Claim 56, wherein the determined relevancy of the tasks is determined according to the frequency with which a plurality of users have previously selected each task.

60. (Original) The method of Claim 56, where determined relevancy of the tasks is determined according to computer state information.

61. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium bearing computer-readable instructions which, when executed, carry out the method for creating a task library on a computer, the method comprising:

obtaining task data for a plurality of components installed on a computer, the plurality of components comprising a plurality of software applications,

wherein the task data comprises reference information to assist a user in regard to a plurality of tasks implemented by the plurality of components,

wherein at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components, and

wherein task data corresponding to at least one component of the plurality of components is configured such that the corresponding component or components may be manipulated from within the task library;

storing the task data in a task library;

generating task links referencing the task data of the plurality of components according to a predetermined schema; and

storing the task links with the task library.

62. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium bearing computer-readable instructions which, when executed, carry out a method for executing a task relating to a first component on a computer without changing user context from a second component, the method comprising:

retrieving a plurality of tasks from a task library, the task library comprising a plurality of tasks ~~[[from]]~~ implemented by a plurality of components installed on the computer,

wherein the plurality of components comprises more than one software application, and

wherein at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two of the plurality of components;

displaying the retrieved tasks to a user within the context of the second component;

detecting the user's selection of a displayed task; and

executing an action associated with the selected task and the first component without changing the ~~apparent~~ user context from the ~~current~~ second component.

63. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two software applications.

64. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein the at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least one software application and one hardware device.

65. (New) The system of Claim 25, wherein the at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two software applications.

66. (New) The system of Claim 26, wherein the at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least one software application and one hardware device.

67. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein the at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least two software applications.

68. (New) The method of Claim 51, wherein the at least one task of the plurality of tasks is collectively implemented by at least one software application and one hardware device.